



Artifcts Guide: Helping You Be Better Prepared in Life and Providing After-Loss Support

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We think the stories, memories, and histories captured through your Artifcts are important and intrinsically valuable. In this guide we walk through how you can use Artifcts to be better prepared in life as well as support the deeply personal process of grieving. What we hope for everyone is that you can pass down memories, not just ‘stuff.’

Section 1: For Your Own Peace of Mind and Preparedness

→ **As the title suggests, our guide is divided into two sections.** Section 1 describes how Artifcts can help support you and your own preparedness in life. Section 2 walks through options for how Artifcts helps us to support each other through grief and loss.

Legacy Contacts

We strongly encourage you to name primary and secondary “Legacy Contacts” to ensure that if your account becomes inactive, or a loved one notifies Artifcts of your passing, we have the means to ensure your Artifcts can live on. A Legacy Contact is a trusted family member, friend, or legal advisor who you trust to manage your Artifcts collection when you’re no longer here.

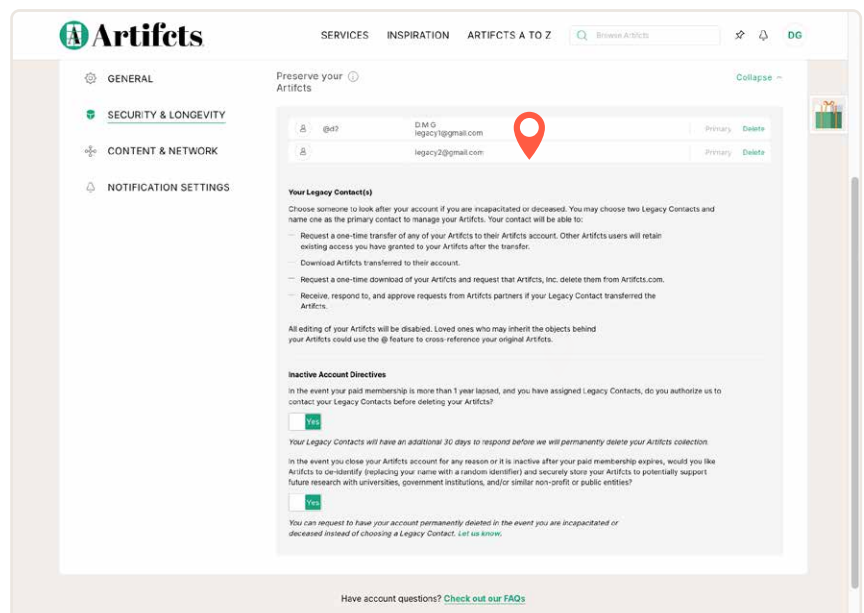
To Do Today: Designate Legacy Contacts

Nominating primary and secondary Legacy Contact takes seconds. Follow these steps:

Step 1: On Artifcts.com, go to your [Account Settings: Security & Longevity](#): Preserve your Artifcts.

Step 2: Insert the email address for the primary and the secondary Legacy Contact. We will automatically send an email to your Legacy Contacts so they know you have selected them. The email will inform them of their options for managing your Artifcts should you pass away. You can change these contacts at any time.

Step 3: From this same section, please review and indicate whether you want Artifcts to email your Legacy Contacts if your paid membership is more than a year lapsed. If you choose “yes,” we will defer permanently deleting your account for another 30 days after a year has passed pending a response from your Legacy Contacts.





The ‘Stuff’ Inspiring Each Artifact: What’s Next for the Physical Objects of Your Life?

As fun as it is to create and share Artifacts with friends and family, we hope Artifacts helps guide your considerations as to what will become of all your stuff in the future when you’re no longer here to speak for it. Stuff still can’t talk!

In the Future

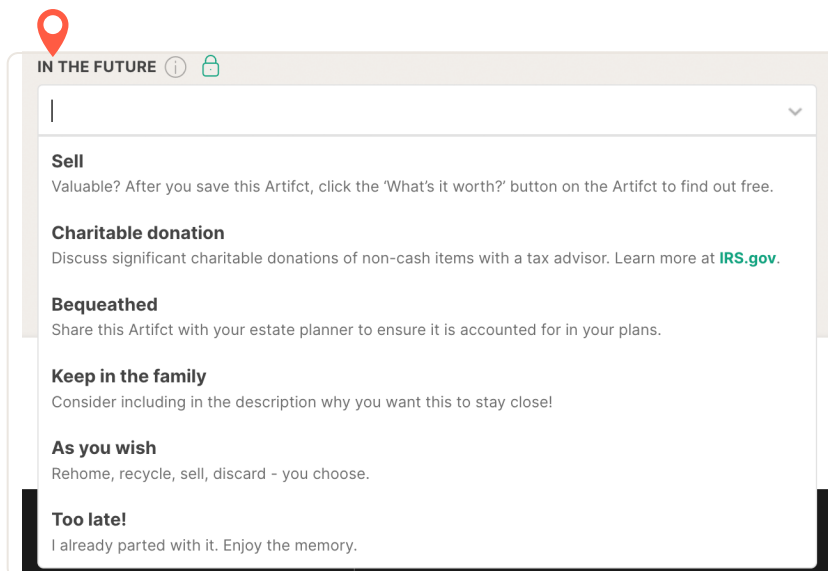
Object by object you can indicate your future wishes for the objects captured in your Artifacts. Why would you do this?

The motivation for some is more immediate – selling objects to convert them into wealth today that can be reinvested in living or maybe new purchases.

For others it is the simple recognition that going through a loved one’s belongings is emotionally draining and can prolong grief. The process of dividing physical assets can also create conflict within families and communities. Deciding for yourself what’s to become of your belongings can help defuse this potential now!

Here are your options that you can select from for each Artifact you create:

- **Sell.** If you choose this option, you will also see an option to schedule an email reminder for yourself to get it done!
- **Donate.** If you have a charity or other institution, such as your alma mater, that you want an item to benefit or be transferred to, indicate that here.
- **Bequeath.** Is there a specific person you would like to have this item? Great, make that note here.
- **Keep in the Family.** Let your loved ones know that you fervently hope they will keep it in the family if possible. Ideally you’ll explain why in the Artifacts’ “Description.”
- **As you wish.** Rehome, recycle, sell, discard - you choose.
- **It’s gone. Enjoy the memory.** You already sold it or otherwise re-homed it, but the memory was what mattered most. Document that here so no one goes on a wild goose chase trying to track the object down.



Important!
Only you and those with whom you grant “full control” of individual Artifacts will see your “In the future” information. So, if you decided your eldest daughter gets a specific item, neither she nor her siblings will know until or unless you tell them.



Bear in mind, **an Artifact is not a legal instrument**. We hope you'll include in your will, estate plan, and/or digital vault that you have an Artifacts account and download and share a copy of your Artifacts with these future wishes listed.

Documentation and Location

You can make the process of dispersing your assets far simpler if for all items of significant monetary value you include documentation, such as receipts, certificates of authenticity, and appraisals. These resources facilitate selling items, managing tax consequences of donations and inheritances, and insuring.

Recording the "Location" of each Artifact is important as well. Did you hide the item away in a fireproof safe in the hall closet? Is it buried in a chest in the attic? Or at an offsite storage unit? This will help those who one day will be responsible for dispersing your estate and even you so you can easily find it when you need it.

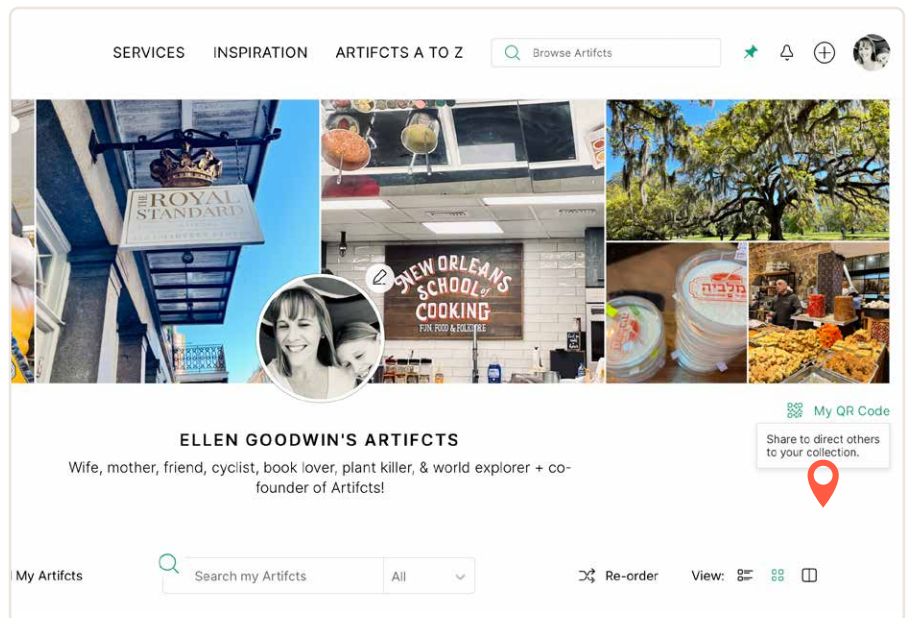
QR Codes

In the rush of clearing out an estate and dividing assets, mistakes can easily be made. Priceless heirlooms, personally valuable mementos, and even expensive treasures can accidentally be tossed or donated. This can be avoided. Once you have Artifactsed each item, print its QR code and safely attach it to the item.

QR codes should be a redundancy if you have already included your Artifacts collection in your will, estate plan, and/or digital vault, but they do say, "Better safe than sorry!"



→ **Suspect your item has significant market value?** Find out now! From the Artifact, click "What's it worth?" and Heritage Auctions will provide you a free valuation. [Learn more >](#)



Look for your Artifacts collection QR code on your My Artifacts page.



Section 2:

For Supporting Others

End-of-Life Ceremonies and Grieving

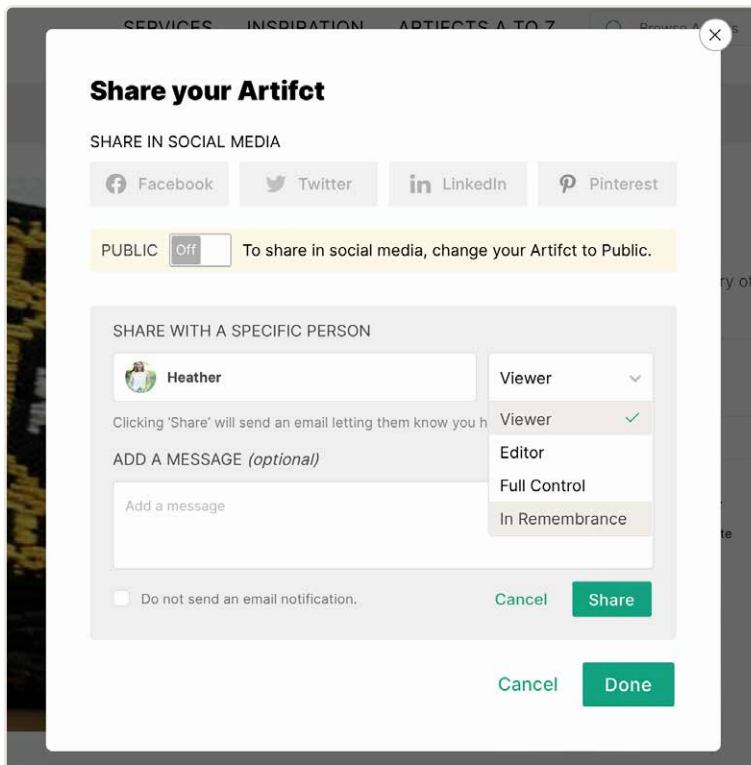
If you have ever lost someone with whom you were close, you know the waves of near paralysis and exhaustion that come over you. You are trying to wrap your mind around the reality of what's happened at the same time as you may be called upon to start addressing legal and estate matters.

Well-meaning friends and family will share memories and stories with you through a variety of means, including beautiful memorial websites, handwritten notes, emails and texts, and of course in-person visits. Herein lies the challenge – grief has no timeline. And some of these moments and stories will be completely lost over time and/or shared with only one of the many who are experiencing grief.

Artifacts in Lieu of Flowers

Well, maybe not literally. We do love giving and receiving flowers. But the idea is that none of us knows the complete history of those we love. We're each keepers of unique moments and memories. (And sometimes 'stuff.')

Anyone can create an Artifact for free to share with someone who is grieving by choosing "In Remembrance" when sharing an Artifact. Choosing In Remembrance shares a non-editable copy of the Artifact, marked with a black ribbon, to the Special Artifacts Collections of the individuals, circles, or sharing lists you select. They will be able to view and download any photos or video and audio snippets you add as media files to the Artifact, too.



→ We share a few sample Artifacts created In Remembrance on our website. [View now >](#)



In-Person and Virtual Ceremonies

Objects can unlock so many stories, stories you don't even know the full color or depth of until others chime in. You can get the story-sharing started by Artifcting an object or photo that will be on display for a ceremony. We are partial to creating invite-only circles to best facilitate sharing and storytelling for these events.

Step 1: Create an Invite-Only Circle

This is a great task for a friend or family member who has offered their help after a loss.

A circle is like a group chat, except the language is Artifacts. Anyone can create a circle, even with a free Artifacts.com membership. To invite others, you will need only their names and email addresses. The person who creates the circle can add other "admins" to the circle to help with circle invitations and permissions.

If you are an end-of-life and/or funeral professional working with the family, you can create and manage the circle and then transfer "ownership" of the circle to the grieving party once your services period is completed.

[Create an Invite-Only Circle >](#)

Step 2: Create/Request Artifacts

Encourage people to channel their grief and support through contributions of Artifacts. For example:

"The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, well-wishers create and share free Artifacts (from Artifacts.com) with the family. Please share the Artifacts privately with @screen name."

A person needs only a free Artifacts account to view Artifacts (including within a circle – see above) and contribute up to five Artifacts. To contribute more than five Artifacts or to collaborate and add details to others' Artifacts, a paid membership is needed.

[Purchase a membership >](#)

Step 3: Incorporate Artifcted Stories and Memories into the Ceremony and Memorial

Help family and friends to Artifct a few of the deceased's belongings that will be on display and print the Artifacts' QR codes so that anyone who attends can scan the codes and enjoy the memories and stories. This applies to in-person as well as virtual events. QR codes or Artifacts links can also be added to handouts and be engraved onto tombstones or laser-etched onto urns.



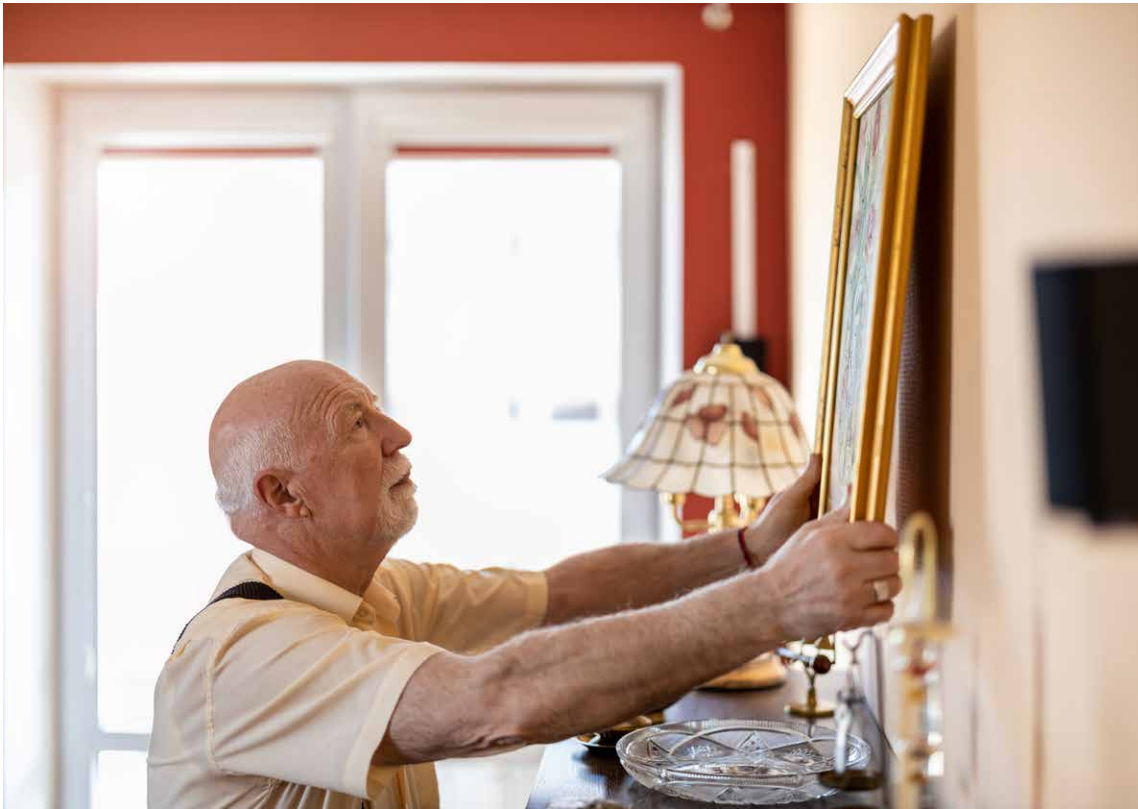
Artifcting Together

How do you help your loved ones as they grieve? Is it running errands, cooking and cleaning, taking care of the pets? Maybe! It could also be simply hanging out and watching a movie or picking a day and time each week to play pickleball or watch a television series together. Just being.

Another way you can help is to Artifct together. We hope these heartfelt examples inspire you:

- **A man who lost his wife**, leaving him and his two young daughters behind, decided two years later that the time had come to begin removing some of his wife's belongings from their home. But the grief this decision evoked was paralyzing. Working with a friend, he Artifcted the shoes she wore on their honeymoon, along with a photo of her wearing them on the trip, and an audio recording of himself telling the story of their courtship and marriage.
- **A young woman lost her baby 20 weeks into her pregnancy.** She had already shared the happy news about her pregnancy far and wide, felt the baby move, and began showing a cute little baby bump. A friend who helped her box up the nursery also helped her to Artifct the memories of the baby she lost: the sonograms, the outfit grandma-to-be had sent for baby's homecoming, and more.
- **A US Marine was killed in the line of duty in Afghanistan in 2013.** His wife and four children attended multiple services in recognition of his service. Fellow Marines, along with friends and family, recently sent his widow private Artifcts, sharing their memories from serving with him and growing up with him. They even created a few with his wife to help answer her questions, such as, "How did he earn this patch? What should I tell our kids about it?"





→ **Heather Nickerson, the co-founder and CEO of Artifacts,** wishes she'd been so lucky as to have Artifacts to guide her and her siblings when their mother passed away unexpectedly and at only 65 years of age. Thousands of objects left behind and no rhyme or reason as to which to hold onto. [Hear her talk about her experience >](#)

Emptying Out the Home

In the end, we cannot take our possessions with us. The burden falls on family and friends to do the best they can with the time they have to disperse your estate. Hopefully you've Artifacted your belongings of greatest emotional and/or financial value as a road map to guide them. Better yet, we hope you've used the optional "In the Future" field on each Artifact and incorporated your Artifacts into your will, estate plan, and/or digital vault.

Ultimately, there will be a lot of items that remain and need to be re-homed, sold, or otherwise disposed of. Visit our [Allies in 'Stuff'](#) for Organizing, Decluttering & Moving, Valuation & Sales, and Artistic Expressions resources to support you.



"The physical act is not what makes you a legend. It's that people talk about you long after you're gone. It's our duty to document and record the stories and the items they are attached to so that our loved one's legacy deservedly lives on for generations to come."

– Matt Paxton, PBS television show host and downsizing and cleaning expert

Need a Little Help?

We've learned a lot about stuff and preparedness as well as the role objects play in the grief process at Artifacts. We are happy to support you and offer virtual and in-person Artifacts concierge services. [Learn more >](#)

→ We'd love to hear from you |

Hello@Artifacts.com |

